



The ENCOURAGER



SWR Chaplain News

Summer Issue

Volume 1 Issue 3

June 2005 – Aug 2005



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CSSC 2006

will be **April 24-27** at the JRB
in Ft Worth again.

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EVERYDAY HEROES

The Faces of Civil Air Patrol



Members of the Civil Air Patrol are truly “Everyday Heroes”. Your volunteer service may often go unheralded, but at the National Conference that was far from true. The Chaplain Service Advisory Council (CSAC) met on Wednesday 17 Aug and discussed changes within the CAP structure. Mr. Don Rowland, Executive Director, met with the CSAC and answered question concerning “why” changes were made. He positively affirmed that the Chaplain Service of the CAP would maintain a high priority of the National Board.

The service of Chaplains and MLOs was emphasized during three seminars:

1. “Everyday Best Practices of Everyday Chaplain Service Heroes”- Things that were productive were discussed.
2. “Everyday Heroes Supporting our Military” - This topic covered how we could serve as chaplains at bases when the active duty Chaplains were deployed.
3. “Flight Time Training: The Next Generation of Heroes”- A discussion on the new Moral Leadership material.

A highlight of the Banquet came from the guest speaker, NASA Astronaut, Lt. Col. Eric A. Boe, USAF. His **encouraging** message was summarized in three statements:

1. Life is a journey – Enjoy the trip.
2. Never give up.
3. Find your passion.

Since the conference, I have given much thought to these three points. I believe God wants us to enjoy our journey on this earth. Of course there will be struggles in the journey, but I have found the more I help others the more I am blessed in general and blessed with help when I am in need. Point two is so important. I have seen so many give up, especially young people, because things were not going their way or it was taking too long to get what they wanted. It is those that hang in there who are the real winners in life. Point three is a blessing. I have several passions. I believe I can do things I like as long as they exemplify character found in ideals such as our code-of-ethics. I think you know what I mean.

As I said in the last Encourager, change is going to happen. Some times I am a victim of change and sometimes I am an encourager of change. Either way I pray that God will lead me along the way. I may not like some decisions, but I hope to move on and remain an encourager to those who are affected by decisions. I pray that God will give us all the ability to roll with the punches, pick ourselves up by our bootstraps and move on.

The recent wave of devastation brought on by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita certainly has brought to light the character and compassion found in our Civil Air Patrol members. The pictures and articles found in this issue are only a small testimony of all that has been done. I am glad to be part of such a giving organization.

SWR CISM Team Responds To Katrina (Chaplains and MLOs Involved)

Even before Hurricane Katrina struck the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, members of the SWR Critical Incident Stress Team (CIST) were on “standby” to respond in support of CAP and other rescue personnel in the storm’s aftermath. Members of the team from across the Region, from Louisiana to Arizona members assembled their personal equipment, made arrangements with their employers and waited the call from the National Operations Center. Additional CAP CISM members from across the US also volunteered to help as needed.



L to R- Lt Gen Rex Glasgow, Lt Col Owen Younger, Capt Shari Stark, Lt Col Sherry Jones & Brig Gen Antonio Pineda at Katrina Command Center, MSWG HQ

The first request for support was received Friday 02SEP05 from the TXWG Director of Emergency Services, Lt Col Scott Trepinski. He requested CISM personnel to support TXWG shelter management operations in Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas. Lt Col Theresa Alexander coordinated Houston operations while Ch, Maj Nancy Smalley coordinated Dallas and SWR CIST Chief Maj (Dr.) Joan Coughlin coordinated San Antonio assisted by 1st Lt Debbie Ford.

Ultimately the CAP shelter operations never occurred however, in Houston, CAP personnel did assist the TXANG as litter-bearers at Ellington ANGB unloading military medevac aircraft bearing hospital patients from New Orleans. This was a 24-hour a day operation. The Houston CIST consisted of Lt Col Alexander, Ch, Lt Col Donald Brown, Lt Col Deborah McCrea, Lt Col David Rex, Capt Paul Brown, Capt John Klein, and 2d Lt Robert Buchman.

The second request came on Thursday evening 08SEP05 from Lt Col Sherry Jones, CAP. Seven members of the SWR CIST along with Lt Col Jones prepared to depart for Jackson, MS on 10SEP05.

SWR CIST members who deployed were MHP’s: Dr. Coughlin, Capt Shari Stark, Capt John Klein, and 1st Lt Marie Hughes; along with Peer Members: Ch, Lt Col Robert Whitley (SWR/HC), Lt Col Theresa Alexander, and Capt Paul Brown. Lt Col Sherry Jones led the team while

SWR CISMD, Ch, Lt Col Donald Brown, remained in TX to provide base logistical support to the deployed team.



CISM Defusing at Stennis, Miss

The Team first deployed to the mission ICP at Jackson, Miss. From there two-person teams were sent on to forward bases at Wiggins, Pascagoula, and Stennis to provide CISM support. Lt Col Jones and Dr. Coughlin provided CISM support at the Jackson ICP. While at the ICP, Lt Col Jones and Dr. Coughlin had numerous opportunities to work directly with the New National Commander Maj Gen Anthony Pineda and the Vice Commander Brig Gen Rex Glasgow and to demonstrate the usefulness of CISM.

The team performed many Defusings, Demobilizations and outbriefings and one-on-one interventions before returning to their homes, in phases with everyone home by 15SEP05.

Additional CIST members from throughout SWR and the US will be assisting in the job of providing requisite follow-up calls to every member the Team encountered in Mississippi.

CISM Has a New Home in CAP

As of the recent National Board Meeting, CISM has a new “home” within the organizational structure of CAP. Previously, CISM was really kind-of *homeless* lacking any official sanction save for a rather dated CAPR 60-5 which wasn’t always followed by everyone in CAP. The new National Commander Maj Gen Anthony Pineda changed all of that when he made CISM a stand-alone department in CAP under the supervision of the National Chief of Staff. Lt Col Sherry Jones who was formerly an advisor to the National Commander for CISM was then appointed as the new National Director and instructed to begin assembling a staff and working to magnify the role and usefulness of CISM nationally.

While deployed to Mississippi as a part of the SWR CIST, Lt Col Jones was instructed by Gen Pineda to immediately begin appointing an official staff to NHQ. Subsequent to that direction, Lt Col Jones appointed the following staff personnel: Deputy Director Ch (Lt Col) Donald Brown, Information Technology Officer, Capt Paul Brown, Administrative Officer, Capt Chris Latocki, and Training Officer, Maj Dan Wrobel. Dr. Joan Coughlin is to serve as the Clinical Director. Lt Col Jones will have several additional personnel serving on an ad hoc basis from their home regions as well.

(The articles on this page were submitted by Ch Don Brown)

Watching the Storm and Preparing Ourselves

By Chaplain (Maj) Nancy Smalley



I don't know if you have ever experienced a hurricane but it is a strange phenomenon. As the storm comes across the shore the winds are very violent. There are rows of vortices that act like a

tornado on its side churning through houses and business and anything that is in its path. It can be strange because a house can be demolished and the two on either side can be left standing in tack. The storm surge can rise tens and hundreds of feet wiping clean the shoreline that it covers.



As the center of the hurricane moves over the land it becomes very calm. Sometimes you can even see the blue sky until that moment when the winds on the other side of the eye begin its tumult.



The world events can be like a hurricane, which, in many times we

can see coming, yet we cannot stop the storm from passing over. We can mitigate its damages by preparing ourselves emotionally and physically and taking higher ground to protect ourselves. But the aftermath is always a shock and devastation to those who have experienced it.

Our spiritual lives can be that way as well. We can see the storm that life is throwing at us. We can prepare for it. We can experience the calm center when it arrives but what do we do afterwards when everything around us seems to be destroyed?

For clergy and religious leaders it can be a difficult time as well. After all we are the ones who are supposed to have all the answers and an inside track with God.

How do we take care of ourselves so that we can be there to help others?

Most of us, in our formation as clergy, have developed some form of spiritual discipline. For most of us it includes worship, reading scriptures, prayer and giving of our resources. Many times, however, we forget



to include rest and refreshment. This includes taking time to be with our families and friends and doing something we enjoy doing. It also means taking care of ourselves physically and mentally.

Take time to rest in the arms of God, giving God your pain and sorrow and asking God to meet your needs for refreshment. Take time away from your work, even if it is God's work, God will hold on to it for you. Like Moses, ask God for help. You may be surprised at how that one is answered.

The Civil Air Patrol is a great place to give of your self to your community. Giving to a squadron as a Chaplain or Moral Leadership Officer is a valuable service. Remember to have fun as well, learn something about aerospace education, make a rocket and launch it with the cadets; participate in missions in a way other than as a chaplain. It can be rewarding and fun and even, at times, refreshing. But if you are getting burned out, ask for help. We may not always be able to avoid the storm but we would much rather help during the storm than arrive after the destruction. May the peace of God keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God.

(Timely? Nancy wrote the article above before Katrina appeared.)

A Hardy Welcome to two new SWR Wing Chaplains and the new AZ Wing Commander

The LA Wing Commander, Col. Rodney Ammons, has selected Chaplain (Lt Col) Ira Schilling to replace Chaplain (Lt Col) Robert Ratchford as the LAWG Chaplain. Father Bob, as he likes to be called, was a popular minister to LA CAP seniors and cadets for many years. As happens, his term of office ran out. He will remain on staff as Chaplain Emeritus so he can continue to minister along side Chaplain Schilling. I have worked with Ch Schilling in the area of CISM and have confidence he will make an excellent Wing Chaplain.

Congratulations to Lt Col Ernest Bourgeois on his appointment as the new AZ Wing Commander. Our best wishes and prayers are with you. One of his first actions was to select Chaplain (Lt Col) Morris Courtright to replace Chaplain (Lt Col) Steve Rountree as AZWG Chaplain. Chaplain Rountree has been asked to remain on staff as Chaplain Emeritus. After long deliberation and prayer, Steve decided this was the right time to retire. He is working two long-term jobs and he and Kathy have been certified to adopt a child. Preparation for this new addition to the family is an exciting time for them. Court, as he is called by his friends, was Steve's deputy and CISM Coordinator. He has our confidence that he will continue the excellence Steve has given to the position.

SWR CIST Responds to Rita

by Chaplain (Lt Col) Don Brown

The winds of Hurricane Rita had scarcely left the State of Texas when the SWR CIST was again called into action to support relief efforts. Actually, the TXWG Director of Emergency Services Lt Col Scott Trepinski had placed the CIST on “standby” on Wednesday 21SEP05. Early on the morning of 25SEP05 the order to deploy was received.

The TXWG Director of Operations (and SWR CIST member) Maj Joe Fernandez requested the Team immediately deploy to various operating bases around TX. Within a short time, members began deploying to the field. Ch, Maj Nancy Smalley and Maj Melanie Capehart deployed to the ICP at Addison Airport. Capt’s Paul Brown (an MLO) and Ted Tessitore deployed to the Houston staging area (SA) at West Houston Airport (IWS) as did Ch, Lt Col David Northcutt (as mission chaplain). Capt Donna Schloss went to the Kerrville SA and Maj (Dr.) Joan Coughlin went to the San Antonio SA.

The next day, Ch, Lt Col Don Brown and Lt Col Theresa Alexander provided CISM On-Scene Support (OSS) and Ch Northcutt continued as the chaplain at the lone remaining base, the ICP at IWS. Lt Col Alexander continued to provide OSS on Tuesday and Wednesday 27-28SEP05. She also provided demobilization services to the Ground Team before they returned to the Dallas area. As of this writing, the base is expected to remain open perhaps for as long as another week with CIST personnel on call for help as needed.



[Note: Chaplains and MLOs this issue is largely around the efforts in the Southwest, but it should include happenings in the other Wings also. The only way that can happen is for you to let your Wing Chaplains know what is happening in your area so they can pass an article on to me. Please, please, please. What you do is important and should be shared with your peers.]



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